<u>WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:</u>

1.   A method comprising:

in response to a first key stroke, displaying a plurality of graphical icons corresponding to running applications;

in response to a mouse input, selecting one of the graphical icons; and

displaying the running application corresponding to the selected icon.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the first key stroke is an ALT+TAB key combination.

3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the mouse input is at least one of a move of a mouse pointer and a click of a mouse button.

4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the selecting comprises:

detecting a position of a mouse pointer on top of the selected icon;

resolving the position into an identification of the selected icon; and

receiving the mouse input indicating the selected icon.

5.   A method comprising:

displaying a plurality of graphical icons representing currently running applications in response to a first key stroke;

in response to an input from a pointing device, selecting one of the graphical icons; and

switching on an operating system to the currently running application represented by the selected icon.

6.   The method of claim 5, wherein the first key stroke is an ALT+TAB key combination and wherein the first key stroke is sent by one of a keyboard, a touch pad, and a touch screen.

7.   The method of claim5, wherein the pointing device is one of a mouse, a stylus, a laser pen, a trackball, a touch pad, and a touch screen.

8.   The method of claim 5, wherein the input from the pointing device is at least one of a move of a mouse pointer and a click of a mouse button.

9.   The method of claim 5, further comprising:

        if a predetermined time period has not expired or an ESC key stroke has been received, stopping the method.

10.   A machine readable medium containing program instructions for execution on a processor, which when executed by the processor, cause the processor to perform:

        in response to a first key stroke, displaying a plurality of graphical icons corresponding to running applications;

        in response to a first mouse input, highlighting one of the graphical icons; and

        in response to a second mouse input, swapping a currently selected running application for the running application corresponding to the highlighted icon.

11.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the highlighting comprises:

        detecting a position of a mouse pointer on a display screen;

        resolving the position into an identification of the graphical icon to which the mouse pointer points;

        comparing the identification of the graphical icon against an identification of a currently highlighted icon; and

        if the identifications do not match, calculating the number of times to press a TAB key in order to move a highlight mark from the currently highlighted icon to the graphical icon to which the mouse pointer points.

12.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the swapping comprises:

performing an ALT key release, wherein the displayed graphical icons disappear and the running application corresponding to the highlighted icon appears.

13.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the first key stroke is a press of an ALT+TAB key combination.

14.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the first mouse input is a move of a mouse pointer to point to one of the graphical icons.

15.   The machine readable medium of claim 10, wherein the second mouse input is a press of a button on a mouse.

16.   A method comprising:

displaying graphical icons representing currently running applications in response to a first key stroke;

highlighting the graphical icon representing the currently selected running application;

in response to a second key stroke, highlighting the graphical icon immediately adjacent to the highlighted icon;

in response to a first mouse input, highlighting the graphical icon designated by the first mouse input;

in response to a second mouse input, switching to the application represented by the icon designated by the first mouse input; and

in response to a release of the first key stroke, switching to the application represented by the currently highlighted icon.